I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing:

1. (previously amended) A programmable apparatus for identifying optimal times for an end user to contact a target user of a messaging system, comprising:

an event monitor to detect messaging system events and to record the messaging system events in a database;

a usage processor to compile statistical usage data from the events in the database; and

a usage indicator to display the target user's statistical usage data on an output device;

wherein the statistical usage data is adapted to allow the end user to determine a best time to contact the target user for a messaging session by providing a plurality of data regarding the target user's times for signing in and signing out, the target user's average time signed on each day, and the target user's messages sent and received.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the messaging system is an instant messaging system.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim1, wherein the messaging system is an email messaging system..

4. (original) The apparatus of claim1, wherein the messaging system is an electronic bulletin board system.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim1, wherein the event monitor allows the target user to disable the recording of the target user's events.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a watch list.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the event monitor only records events matching a type included in the watch list.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an access list for the target user.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the usage processor compiles the target user's statistical usage data only if the end user is in the target user's access list.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim1, wherein the usage indicator saves the target user's statistical usage data in a summary file.

11. (previously amended) A computer readable memory for causing a computer to identifying optimal times for an end user to contact a target user of a messaging system, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

a computer program stored in the storage medium, wherein the storage medium, so configured by the computer program, causes the computer to

detect messaging system events;

record the messaging system events in a database;

compile the target user's statistical usage data from the messaging system events in the database; and

display the target user's statistical usage data on an output device;

wherein the statistical usage data is adapted to allow the end user to determine a best time to contact the target user for a messaging session by providing a plurality of data regarding the target user's times for signing in and signing out, the target user's average time signed on each day, and the target user's messages sent and received.

12. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 11, wherein the messaging system is an instant messaging system.

13. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 11, wherein the messaging system is an email messaging system.

14. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 11, wherein the messaging system is an electronic bulletin board system.

15. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 11, wherein the computer program causes the computer to allow the target user to disable the recording of their own events.

16. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 11 further comprising a watch list stored in the computer readable storage medium.

17. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 16, wherein the computer program causes the computer to record only events matching a type included in the watch list.

18. (original) The computer readable memory of claim 11 further comprising an access list for the target user, the access list being stored in the computer readable storage medium.

19. (original) The computer readable memory of claim18, wherein the computer program causes the computer to compile the target user's statistical usage data if the end user is in the target user's access list.

20. (original) The computer readable memory of claim11, wherein the computer program causes the computer to save the target user's statistical usage data in a summary file.

21. (previously amended) A method of identifying optimal times for an end user to contact a target user of a messaging system, comprising detecting messaging system events, recording the messaging system events in a database, compiling statistical usage data from the messaging

system events, and displaying the target user's statistical usage data on an output device; wherein the statistical usage data is adapted to allow the end user to determine a best time to contact the target user for a messaging session by providing a plurality of data regarding the target user's times for signing in and signing out, the target user's average time signed on each day, and the target user's messages sent and received.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the messaging system is an instant messaging system.

23. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the messaging system is an email messaging system.

24. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the messaging system is an electronic bulletin board system.

25. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the steps following the detecting step do not occur if the target user has disabled the recording of the target user's events.

26. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the recording step only records events matching a type included in a watch list.

27. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the compiling step only occurs if the end user is included in a target user's access list.